FROM THE FRONT

"Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration."
ABRAHAM LINCOLN 16TH U.S. PRESIDENT

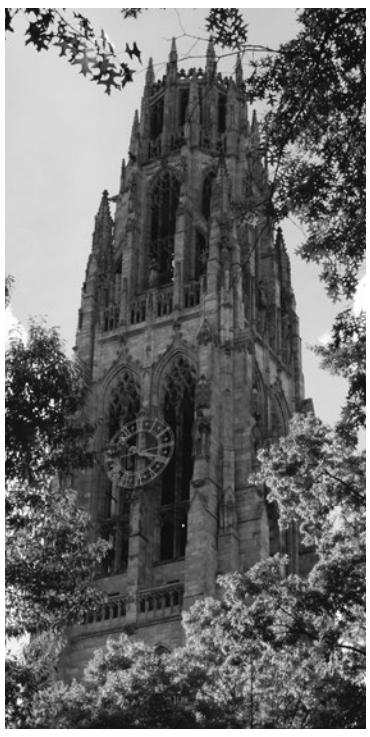
Upper level move-in delayed by two days

MOVE-IN FROM PAGE 1

"Shifting upper-level move-in closer to the start of classes distributes the work more evenly," Boyd wrote. "It also reduces the cost of reopening each year, allowing those funds to be preserved for other priorities."

Between move-in and the beginning of class, undergraduate students have access to dining halls and other amenities on campus.

Aside from cutting costs, Boyd attributed the shift to the quick transition between summer programs housed in dormitories, like Yale Summer Session and First-Year Scholars, and undergraduates' move-in. Staff members are also busy assisting with job training and pre-orientation programs, as well as the arrival of first years, transfer students and athletes, she wrote.



Chloe Edwards / Staff Photographer

With those factors in mind, Boyd wrote, she foresees the University will "stick with this schedule in the coming years."

Last year, Yale drew flak for various budget-saving moves intended to prepare the University for the endowment tax hike that went into effect in July. Those measures included reducing summer funding for undergraduates, laying off Yale College staff and cutting graduate student enrollment.

Students criticized this year's tight move-in timeline.

Carly Thinfen '28 said she preferred the prior academic year's move-in dates. She described this year's move-in timeline as "hectic," noting tight scheduling with job training and extracurricular meetings.

"I only have two full days to move in, see everybody, get acclimated back into the Yale environment," Thinfen said. "All in all, it's a little rushed."

Johnathan VonAllmen '29 wrote in a text message to the News that the altered timeline provided less time for him to reconnect with peers, although it had little effect on his move-in itself. First years traditionally move in approximately one week before upper level students.

"I preferred last fall's move in time if only because it gave plenty of time to prepare for the year on campus using Yale and New Haven resources and with easy access to peers to discuss those things, as doing so on campus ended up being quite fond memories," VonAllmen wrote.

This semester, the first day of classes is Sept. 2.

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Students psyched for Salovey

SALOVEY FROM PAGE 1

"People talk about students being more anxious in the post-COVID era as well as 'hiding' behind technology these days, but — in fact — I didn't sense either of these issues in the first meeting of the class today," Salovey wrote to the News, reflecting on comparisons to his previous courses. "At the end of the day, students come to Yale because they are excited to learn new things!"

According to the course's syllabus, Salovey invited former Yale College Dean and professor of psychology and neuroscience Marvin Chun to teach in a guest lecture on functional brain imaging on Oct. 20. Chun has also taught "Introduction to Psychology" after his administrative tenure.

Salovey wrote to the News that he often guest-lectured for Chun when he taught introductory psychology. Chun previously told the News that Salovey's course is an "extraordinary opportunity" for Yalies and that "his charismatic care will be evident throughout the class."

"My goal in the class is always to have more people say to me they became psychology majors after taking Introduction to Psychology. That's how I measure the success of my class," Salovey told students.

Following the lecture, nine students interviewed by the News expressed excitement about the course, citing Salovey's teaching style, expertise and experience as reasons for enrolling. The class has drawn students from a range of academic disciplines, many of whom said Salovey was a major factor in their decision to take the course.

William Wakefield '29 said that while he is not a psychology major, knowing that Salovey was the instructor was a large driving force in his choice to take the class.

"I think it's one of the best courses offered this semester," Wakefield said in an interview with the News following the lecture. "It's incredible to see him coming back to teach this class after more than 20 years."

Raquel Frankel '30 wrote in an email to the News that taking the course was an "incredible opportunity" to be taught by Salovey.

"I was excited walking into the lecture hall and I left equally, if not more, enthusiastic. Professor Salovey made the standard first-class overview entertaining, engaging and fascinating," Frankel wrote. "I am incredibly grateful to delve into the subject with someone so proficient in the field, and I feel lucky to be in his first class after 23 years."

Salovey served as Yale's 23rd president.

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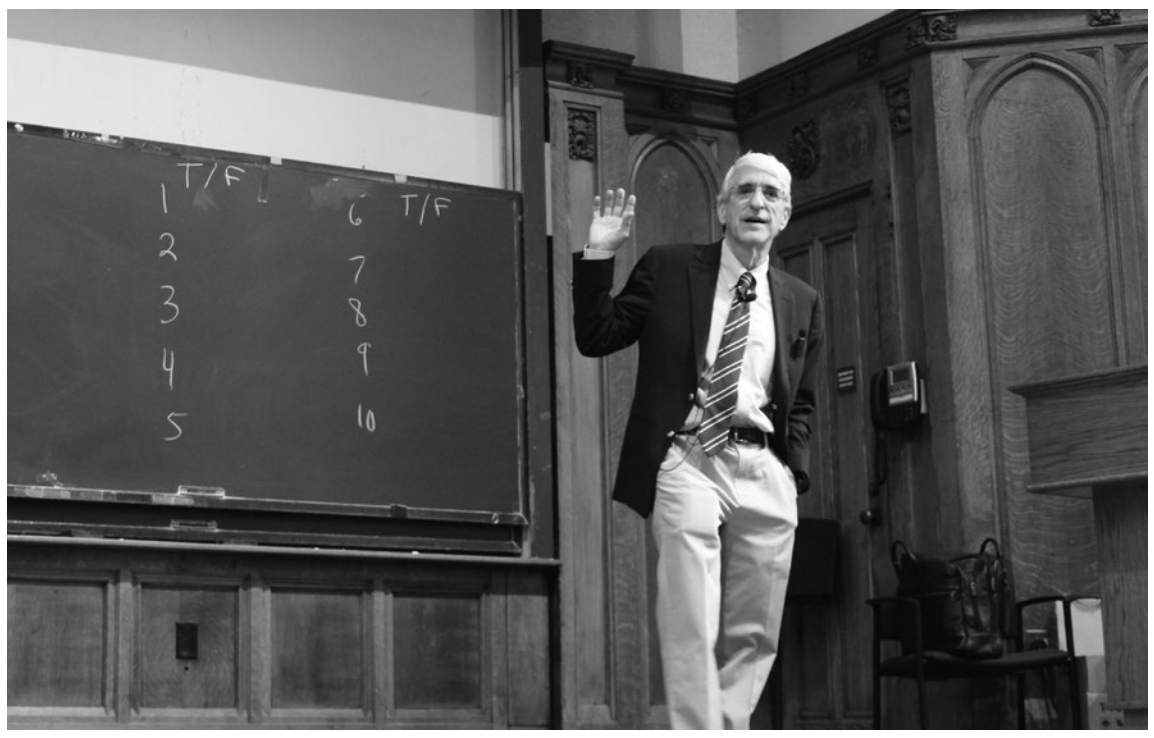

Jolynda Wang / Contributing Photographer
Former Yale President Peter Salovey taught "Introduction to Psychology" more than a dozen times before entering the administration.

What to know about Yale's negotiations with Trump

BY ARIA LYNN-SKOV
STAFF REPORTER

Students returned to campus this fall after a tumultuous summer for Yale's relations with the federal government.

Since the start of the second Trump administration, universities have faced heightened pressure through threats to federal research funds, criticism of diversity policies and scrutiny into alleged antisemitism on campuses, and many of them have reached settlements. Yale seemed to be an exception.

But not anymore.

While Yale was largely spared from targeted attacks into the end of this spring, the Department of Justice's investigations into its admissions practices, released in May, have brought the University to the negotiating table with the Trump administration.

News of a potential settlement with the Justice Department came in late June, sparking immediate pushback from students, faculty and alumni, who have urged Yale not to settle.

Now, as the academic year begins, the status and details of the federal negotiations remain unclear, although University President Maurie McInnis has released several comments about Yale's talks with the federal government as pressure mounts against any settlement with the Trump administration.

The ongoing period of uncertainty in the negotiations "may well continue, and we do not know for how long," McInnis wrote in an Aug. 21 message to the Yale community.

Here's an overview of what happened over the summer.

News of a potential settlement breaks, prompting a big-tent opposition

In a May letter of findings, the Justice Department accused the Yale School of Medicine of discriminating against White and Asian applicants. The Justice Department wrote that "Yale discriminated against other applicants to benefit preferred race classes of Black and Hispanic," citing GPAs and standardized medical exam scores from the 2023, 2024 and 2025 admissions cycles.

On June 28, The New York Times reported that Yale was engaged in settlement talks with the Justice Department over the department's inquiries, which had expanded to include admissions at Yale College and Yale Law School.

The University had offered a settlement proposal to the Trump administration, The New York Times reported, and hired as outside counsel for its negotiations the Richmond-based law firm McGuireWoods, used by the University of Virginia in its 2025 settlement with the federal government.

The next day, alumni advocacy group Stand Up For Yale sent out a petition calling on Yale to reject any settlement that would compromise "Yale's lawful commitment to building a diverse and inclusive academic community" or constrain "Yale's ability to pursue lawful holistic admissions." It now has over 5,500 signatures.

As alumni responded to reported negotiations, so did factions at Yale. The New York Times reported on July 7 that law school faculty members, including Yale Law School Dean Cristina Rodríguez '95 LAW '00, opposed a settlement and had lobbied Yale leaders to stop a deal. A Yale professor briefed on the matter confirmed that report, as well as the report of the initial settlement and the hiring of McGuireWoods, to the News.

Undergraduate and law school students have also mobilized to push back against a deal.

Student leaders organized a July 10 roundtable discussion followed by a press conference held in front of the Law School with local and state politicians. Those in attendance included Sen. Richard Blumenthal LAW '73, who told attendees that Yale had made a second settlement offer after the first had been rejected. His remarks were confirmed by the Yale professor briefed on the negotiations.

New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker, Ward 1 Alder Elias Theodore '27 and two state representatives also spoke at the event. The following week, state legislators sent a letter to McInnis and Yale's trustees threatening to revisit Yale's tax-exempt status if the University struck a deal with the Justice Department.

The status of Yale's second proposal to the Trump administration, or any talks beyond that, remains unknown.

Other recent advocacy efforts against a settlement include an advertisement placed by a Yale alum in The New York Times and two billboards on Interstate 95 backed by a national advocacy group.

McInnis addresses Trump talks and gives mixed assurances in private

McInnis confirmed that negotiations with the Trump administration were underway in a July 13 message to the Yale community. In her message, she described the "process for the parties to engage in seeking a voluntary resolution" as a "required and reasonable step," and wrote that the University was "participating in good faith."

McInnis added that Yale is approaching these matters with five fundamental principles, including protecting independent hiring and admissions decisions, academic freedom and free expression.

Two days before first years moved into campus, McInnis sent a second update about the negotiations, acknowledging the uncertainty about the negotiations and reaffirming Yale's commitment to those five principles.

"Even though the current period of uncertainty about the investigations may well continue, and we do not know for how long, we can be certain that Yale is committed to following the law and adhering to our guiding principles, from which we will not deviate," she wrote.

She also linked to a page answering frequently asked questions about Yale's federal negotiations.

McInnis spoke with faculty and student leaders this summer to discuss the settlement, leaving them with mixed degrees of assurance.

Michael Farina, chair of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Senate, wrote to the News in July that he had spoken with McInnis, and was confident in her efforts to "safeguard both Yale's autonomy and our ability to accept the students of our choice," describing her words and actions as "clearly heartfelt and forthright."

"She has given us no reason to doubt her absolute sincerity in defending our academic freedom, the university, our faculty, and our students," he wrote.

But after a July 21 meeting with undergraduate and graduate student leaders, Yale College Council Vice President Michelle Jimenez '28 wrote to the News that McInnis did not directly address their concerns, leaving her unassured, and YCC President Alex William Chen '28 criticized Yale administrators' lack of transparency.

"Yale leaders have been exceedingly nontransparent with students," Chen wrote in an email to the News after his meeting with McInnis.

Back on campus, students are continuing their advocacy in person. On Tuesday, the day before classes began, over 300 students, alumni, faculty and community members gathered on Cross Campus to rally against a settlement.

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William Qian / Staff Photographer
The 2026-27 school year is beginning amid a period of uncertainty for Yale as it continues negotiating with the Trump administration.